

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 16-18 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 19-25 are rejected.

Claims 2-15 and 26 are objected to.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1, 19, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 1, 19, 23 and 25 are currently amended.

Claims 2, 22, 24 and 26 are cancelled.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3-21, 23 and 25 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Supplemental Amendment/Response

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the phone call on June 9, 2005 to explain a clerical error made by the applicants in the Amendment/Response filed June 2, 2005, which should be replaced by this supplemental amendment/Response.

This amendment/response is also responsive to the phone conversation between applicant's representative, Brian Wichner, and the Examiner, on June 13, 2005. During this phone call, the Examiner informed applicant that claim 6 is not allowable, as earlier indicated in the office action due to Examiner error. Examiner reiterated allowability of claim 2.

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Figs. 7A and 7B are difficult to read. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office Action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Formal replacement drawings are submitted with this Response.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct a clerical error by deleting the term “intended”. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 19, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dabral, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,422).

Claims 1, 19 and 25 are amended to include claim limitations of their respective selected dependent claims that have been found to be allowable. Namely, claim 1 has been combined with claim 2, claim 19 has been combined with claim 22, and claim 25 has been combined with claim 26.

Claim 24 has been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-15 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, claims 3-15 depend from claim 1 and inherently include all of the limitations of the base claim. The prior art does not teach the limitations of the base claim much less the further embodiments of the dependent claims. Therefore, claims 2-15 are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Allowance of these claims is requested.

Claim 2 has been cancelled in favor of allowability of claim 1.

Claims 20-23 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

See above regarding the 112 rejection of claim 19.

Claims 20-23 depend from claim 19 and inherently include all of the limitations of the base claim. The prior art does not teach the limitations of the base claim much less the

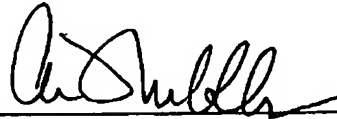
further embodiments of the dependent claims. Therefore, claims 20-23 are allowable for their dependency and their own merits. Allowance of these claims is requested.

The Examiner has found claims 16-18 to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-21, 23 and 25 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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